

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Minutes **September 14, 2009**

Members: Darian Unger, Mark Woodard, Kathy Stevens, Victor Weissberg, Phil Olivetti, Marilyn Seitz, Megan Moriarty, Casey Anderson and Constance Wynn, Evan Glass, Jessica Fusillo, Deborah Linn, Mitch Warren, Tiffany Graham-Golden

Members Absent: Lucinda Lessley

Call to Order and Introduction: Darian Unger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board unanimously approved the July 2009 minutes.

Community Comments:

Tom Block announced that he was producing the Amnesty International Human Rights Art Festival here in Silver Spring, April 23-25, 2010. The event has a tremendous amount of local support, and some regional and national support and I want to make sure that we have community support as well. The festival will take place over three days in April and will involve cultural, business and political members from Silver Spring, the Washington DC metro area and beyond. Each day will start with a meet and greet breakfast at Pyramid Atlantic. After the morning kick-off, the schedule will include a variety of events. We would like to get 30 or 40 local businesses involved and have a strong arts and business connection with our political support to try and give Silver Spring something special. I am here today to request that the SSCAB write a letter of support for this event. For more details visit www.humanrightsartfestival.com

Bob Colvin commented that the Lt. Liquorie would attend ESSCA next meeting. We have a situation on 701 Easton Street and neighbors are complaining regarding vagrants hanging out there. The Fenton Street Market was held Saturday at the corner at Fenton and Silver Spring Avenue and they are talking about having another one on October 3. Also ESSCA brought trees for the park land at Burlington and the trees are growing.

Chairs Report

Darian Unger reported that:

- The Board has two new members and welcomed both Jessica Fusillo and Joshua Moses.
- Alan Bowser resigned from SSCAB and is the Chief of Staff to Councilmember Trachtenberg in Rockville. We will be asking for a successor for him from the County Executive.
- The Boards goal is to develop strong community leadership. Try to advise the County Executive and County Council on local issues propose solutions to problems and whenever possible help implement those solutions. I invite all get be involved.
- At the July meeting the Board approved Capital Improvement Project (CIP) and in August I represented the Board at a meeting with the SSRC Director, County Executive and other County Staff to discuss Silver Spring Community priorities

for the CIP budget and the meeting went well and I believe people listened. *(For complete details please refer to the informational portion of the September packet).*

- Thanks to Kathy Stevens for the completion of the Annual Report. Moving forward we are in the process of planning our Annual Retreat and need to start thinking about priorities for next year, how to better represent the community and make the community more livable, vibrant and safe for all.
- Over the last month I have been referring to us in correspondence as the Silver Spring Advisory Board and not Citizens Advisory Board. About a year ago we asked the County Executive to change our name to the community advisory board and there was no real opposition but nor did it move anything so after talking to Reemberto the idea was to do it unilaterally because we are really trying to be representative and be more broadly inclusive so I will continue doing this unless there is objection. This is an item that we could discuss at the Retreat

Director's Report

Reemberto Rodriguez reported that:

- He resides in Silver Spring off of Piney Branch and Potomac and has lived here for five years. For the five years living here he has been as active in the community as can be. He was employed by Neighbor Works America and you can visit the website nw.org which will give a sense of his work background
- Community Service Day is October 24 and hopes all will join in and do some door knocking to connect to the community.
- We will reaffirm and celebrate the Regional Center of what we have in Silver Spring and downtown Silver Spring. We are experimenting with three different types of e-mail Community Broadcast, Community Engagement Opportunities, and Community Celebrating Successes.
- Reemberto asked the SSCAB members what they would like to see in a Director's Report and hold the Director accountable to on a routine basis.

Members responded as follows:

- Update on Fillmore, Civic Building Library, Transit Center, etc.
- Longer point of view whether it is a couple months or six months because there have been cases when issues come to the Board requesting that we advise County Council next month. It would be helpful if you as staff give us the other top two or three things that will be coming down the pike related to overall community issues that are anticipated whether it is about the Urban District, Neighborhoods or streets.
- Budgetary issues that are in effect today and continue to affect the County it would be helpful to the Board to have a long range look at both the Capital and Operating budget, where things are going, what County staff is thinking about in terms of the potential for the State to come back to the County and asked for even more cuts in this fiscal year.
- Knowledge of the critical issues the County Executive and County Council are dealing with. What's happening at the Planning Board and what are you the Director hearing in order for this Board to be ahead of the curve and not have to act so quickly.

Committee Reports

Neighborhoods

Megan Moriarty reported that:

- The July Neighborhoods Committee notes are on page 4. We had a discussion and brainstorming session about space for youth in Silver Spring and came up with a list of next steps that will be ready by the next meeting
- Discussion on School Boundaries that are affecting Sligo Creek, East Silver Spring and Takoma Park Elementary School. There were different opinions represented at the table the link to the full report with information on all six options and positions of each school is <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/pdf/TakPkReport.pdf>. The community has until October to submit input and there will be two public hearings in November before the School Board.

The Neighborhoods meeting is Monday, September 21, at 7 p.m., Silver Spring Regional Center.

Commercial Economic Development, (CED)

Phil Olivetti reported that:

- CED met in August. We discussed Reemberto Rodriguez's background and vision.
- Debbie Linn led the discussion on having another Fenton Village forum and she is in the process of brainstorming and talking with others to figure out the best approach. Debbie Linn commented that they are trying to do something that centers around businesses, their concerns, what they would like to see in development and hear what the community can do to help. We have done general community concerns and some development. I would like to hold the forum at the end of October or the beginning of November. After that I would like to compile a report to send to elected officials and Planning Department stating all the community concerns that need to be considered when discussing development and if they don't consider them the community is not going to be in favor of those things they propose. I would like to discuss this issue at the next CED Committee meeting on Wednesday, September 16, and hold another meeting to discuss the planning phase on either a Monday or Wednesday for those that are interested.
- Discussion was held regarding what the County does in terms of promoting, marketing, tracking and understanding event at AFI, the Film Festival. We had SILVERDOCS in June and a lot of people attend and we wanted to know what impact it had. I asked the County but apparently there is not a lot of tracking done of major events. This is a matter the community is going to think about and consider because we would like to know what impact these events mean to Silver Spring.

The next CED meeting is September 16, at 7:30 p.m., Silver Spring Regional Center

Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committee

Darian Unger reported that:

- The notes are located on pages 9 and 10 and there are four issues to cover. The Regional Center mailed a video titled "Walk Safe! Keeping Pedestrians Safe in the" Danger Zone" to the Board. I hope everyone has had an opportunity to

review it because they would like feedback. Discussion was held on the video being shown to a more captive audience to include schools, civic associations etc. The video is on the Montgomery County website.

- The Committee discussed the Metropolitan Branch Trail with the Director of Department Transportation and a project engineer asking numerous questions and the details are on page 9 and 10 in your packet. We had a bunch of suggestions and this has been a priority for the Board. We urged the issue again at the CIP meeting with the Mr. Gonzales and the County Executive.
- Tom Block gave us more details on the Human Rights Arts Festival this evening. The motion from Committee in June was that we vote to officially support the Silver Spring Human Rights Arts Festival and did not get into specifics of companies trying to join at that time. The issue came up in July and was tabled by the Board because of lack of information. I would move that we take it off the table and consider it this evening.

Motion: (Unger, Seitz) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board unanimously agreed to write a letter of general support for the Silver Spring Amnesty International Human Rights Art Festival being held in April 2010.

Next meeting is Wednesday, September 30 at 7:30 p.m., Silver Spring Regional Center.

Discussion on growth policy and Silver Spring Planning issues

Rollin Stanley, Planning Director, Park and Planning gave a presentation on the on the draft Smart Growth Policy for Montgomery County as follows:

- The 2009-2011 Growth Policy moves to reduce congestion by influencing traffic demand. By creating mixed uses near transit, lowering the carbon output of new buildings, creating energy on site, new development can offer sustainable alternatives.
- Revising the Housing element of the general plan creates more links between housing and community. Revision provide a set of strategies to promote residents aging in place and identify design innovations, legislative reform and social supports
- The commercial-Residential (CR) zone is a step toward creating zoning that replaces the myriad of existing mixed-use zones to provide greater certainty for residents, builders, and policy-makers. The CR Zone will support new master planning efforts by providing a clear list of public amenities that will shape each planning area. Walkable mixed used communities that incorporate green design and convenient services will evolve in this zone.

All projects must meet the following criteria to be considered for an Alternative PAMR Review and 100% PAMR offset:

- Project must be located within ½ mile of an existing or planned major transit stop or high-quality transit corridor. Project must be mixed use with a minimum 50% residential use.
- Project must seek to achieve the maximum density of the site using 75% or more of the maximum density allowed in the zone (including all applicable bonuses)

subject to the limits specified in the master/sector plan.

- Building(s) exceeds energy efficiency standards by 17.5% for new buildings or by 10.5% for existing building renovation. Or, building(s) has on-site energy production such that 2.5% of the annual building energy cost is off-set by the renewable production system (LEED)New Construction/Major Renovation.
- The project must provide additional affordable housing, either workforce housing or moderately priced dwelling units, above and beyond that required for plan approval such that 25% of the PAMR mitigation resource being offset is applied to this obligation.

The PAMR offset will be directed as follows:

- Fifty % of the PAMR mitigation resource being offset must be directed to transit infrastructure.
- Twenty-five % of the PAMR mitigation resource being offset must be applied to the provision of additional affordable housing, either workforce housing or moderately priced dwelling units, above and beyond that required for plan approval. And, the remaining twenty-five % of the PAMR mitigation resource will be retained by the developer.

For complete details and a better understanding of the Growth Policy presentation visit the on-line link below

www.montgomeryplanning.org/research/growth_policy/growth_policy09/agp_growing_smarter.shtm

or mail your questions on the internet and they will reach the appropriate department on this issue

9:00 p.m. -meeting adjourned

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